

CLAIMS

1. A newel guide for supporting a handrail, comprising:  
a friction belt having a closed curved shape and including an outer surface in  
5 contact with an internal surface of the handrail; and  
a support means for supporting an inner surface of the friction belt to allow  
the friction belt to make a continuous movement around the support means.
2. The newel guide of claim 1, wherein said friction belt comprises an inner  
10 layer and an outer layer having a friction coefficient higher than that of the inner  
layer.
3. The newel guide of claim 1, wherein said support means comprises:  
a newel frame having a pair of plate members at an upper portion thereof, the  
15 plate members being separated from each other and extending in a longitudinal  
direction of the newel frame;  
an intermediate guide mounted on the pair of plate members and having a  
depressed surface in contact with the inner surface of the friction belt; and  
a pair of joint guides mounted to the newel frame adjacent to ends of the  
20 intermediate guide, an end of the joint guide providing a support surface for  
supporting the continuous movement of the friction belt.
4. The newel guide of claim 3, wherein a passage through which the friction belt  
travels is formed under the pair of plate members.
- 25 5. The newel guide of claim 4, wherein the pair of plate members has a slit  
formed therebetween through which the friction belt is introduced into the passage in  
an assembling process of the newel guide.
- 30 6. The newel guide of claim 3, wherein the newel frame has a pair of wings  
extending laterally outwardly from the newel frame and the handrail has a pair of  
hooks fittable over the pair of wings.
7. The newel guide of claim 3, wherein the end of the joint guide has a curved  
35 shape in its cross-section.

8. The newel guide of claim 3, wherein the joint guide is fixed to the newel frame by using a thread.